

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 AF-10 EA-10 EUR-12 NEA-10

HA-05 OIC-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11

AID-05 EB-08 TRSE-00 STR-07 OMB-01 CEA-01 COME-00

DOE-15 SOE-02 NRC-05 SAA-01 ACDA-12 /184 W

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R 261450Z JUL 78

FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO USUN NEW YORK 775

SECSTATE WASHDC 6682

INFO AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 BUENOS AIRES 5750

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PEPR, UNGA, PORG, ECIN, AR

SUBJECT: DAS BARRY PRE-UNGA CONSULTATIONS IN BUENOS AIRES

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: IN DISCUSSIONS WITH DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY BARRY (IO) ARGENTINE OFFICIALS INDICATED THAT THEY ARE CONSIDERING SOME FORM OF PARTICIPATION IN UNTAG IN NAMIBIA. THEY PROMISED CONTINUING SUPPORT FOR US MIDDLE EAST POSITIONS ESPECIALLY ON ZIONISM-RACISM AND SOME RESISTANCE TO EFFORTS TO ENHANCE STATUS OF PLO. GOA OFFICIALS PROMISED CONTINUING SUPPORT ON PUERTO RICO. ON ECONOMIC ISSUES, ARGENTINES HIGHLIGHTED TRADE, AID, COMMODITIES, TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER AND FINANCE AS KEY ISSUES AND PREDICATED FAILURE OF OVERVIEW MECHANISM AS A DEVICE FOR DEALING WITH THEM. THEY SIGNALLED THAT ARGENTINA WOULD NOT BE HELPFUL ON UN FINANCIAL ISSUES SUCH AS SALARIES AND FIRST CLASS TRAVEL BECAUSE OF INFLUENCE OF HIGH RANKING ARGENTINE OFFICIALS AT THE UN. END SUMMARY.

2. DURING DAY-LONG CONSULTATIONS ON UN ISSUES,

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DAS BARRY MET WITH FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS ALBERTO NAVEIRO, DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS; FERNANDO PETRELLA, OFFICE FOR FOREIGN POLICY COORDINATION; AND PAULINO MUSSACHIO, DIRECTOR OF INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC AFFAIRS. THE EMBASSY HOSTED A LUNCH FOR BARRY WITH PETRELLA AND CARLOS PEREZ LLANO, COORDINATOR GENERAL OF INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC

AFFAIRS OF THE MINISTRY OF ECONOMY. FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS WERE RECEPTIVE TO BARRY PRESENTATION AND ENCOURAGED THE US UN DELEGATION TO MAINTAIN CLOSE AND CONTINUING CONTACT WITH THE ARGENTINE DELEGATION DURING THE UPCOMING GENERAL ASSEMBLY. DURING THE DISCUSSIONS, THE FOLLOWING POINTS WERE MADE:

3. NAMIBIA. BARRY HIGHLIGHTED POTENTIAL BREAK-THROUGH ON NAMIBIA AS KEY DEVELOPMENT WHICH COULD INFLUENCE 33RD UNGA. HE POINTED OUT PARTICULAR RESPONSIBILITY OF INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY FOR SUPPORTING PEACEFUL TRANSITION IN NAMIBIA AND URGED LATIN AMERICAN PARTICIPATION IN UNTAG. PETRELLA INDICATED THAT GOA WAS CONSIDERING PARTICIPATION IN EITHER MILITARY OR CIVILIAN SIDE OF UNTAG. ON FINANCING, BARRY STRESSED IMPORTANCE OF COVERING EXPENSES OF UNTAG FROM REGULAR UN BUDGET. ARGENTINE RESPONSE WAS NON-COMMITTAL.

3. CUBA AND NAM. FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS EXPRESSED CONCERN AT POSSIBILITY THAT CUBA COULD CAPTURE THE LEADERSHIP OF NAM AND INDICATED THEY WOULD BE WORKING BEHIND THE SCENES TO PROMOTE AN INDEFINITE POSTPONEMENT OF HAVANA SUMMIT AS THE BEST MEANS OF PUTTING A SPOKE IN CUBAN WHEEL. WHOEVER, THEY INDICATED THAT ARGENTINE DELEGATION

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WOULD TAKE ITS CUE FROM NAM LEADERS SUCH AS INDONESIA, INDIA AND YUGOSLAVIA AND WOULD NOT GET OUT IN FRONT. BARRY RAISED POSSIBILITY THAT CUBA MIGHT SEEK LATIN AMERICA SECURITY COUNCIL SEAT WHICH ARGENTINES DISCOUNTED. THEY ALSO THOUGHT IT UNLIKELY THAT CUBA WOULD GET A LATIN AMERICA SEAT ON EXPANDED UN COMMITTEE OF DISARMAMENT ALTHOUGH THEY HEARD HAVANA MAY TRY.

4. MIDDLE EAST. BARRY RAISED POSSIBILITY THAT NAM BELGRADE MEETING MIGHT GIVE NEW IMPETUS TO ZIONISM-RACISM CONNECTION WHICH COULD SPILL OVER INTO UNGA. PETRELLA INDICATED THAT GOA WOULD CONTINUE TO OPPOSE Z-R LINKAGE BUT URGED THAT US TAKE A STRONG PUBLIC LEAD IN ANY UN DEBATES TO MAKE IT EASIER FOR SYMPATHETIC LA DELEGATIONS TO FOLLOW SUIT. CONCERNING EFFORTS TO ENHANCE STATUS OF PLO, FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS INDICATED SYMPATHY FOR US POSITION BUT POINTED OUT PLO SUPPORT FOR ARGENTINE POSITIONS IN UN MADE IT IMPOLITIC FOR ARGENTINA TO GET OUT IN FRONT ON THIS MATTER. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION ON PLO TIES TO MONTONEROS, GOA OFFICIALS SUGGESTED THAT THIS WAS NOT A MATTER THEY WANTED TO MAKE AN

ISSUE OF LEST IT BACKFIRE.

5. PUERTO RICO. BARRY EXPRESSED GRATITUDE FOR ARGENTINE SUPPORT IN PAST ON PUERTO RICO AND POINTED OUT THIS MAY BE A CRUCIAL YEAR IN C-24 CONSIDERATION OF ISSUE. HE EMPHASIZED THAT US WAS PREPARED TO GRANT ANY STATUS OPTION PUERTO RICANS WISHED, BUT THAT THROWING MATTER INTO GENERAL ASSEMBLY WOULD MAKE IT MORE DIFFICULT FOR US TO PRODUCE ON THIS COMMITMENT. FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS INDICATED A DESIRE TO BE HELPFUL ON PUERTO RICO AND SUGGESTED THAT OUR DELEGATIONS KEEP IN CLOSE TOUCH IN NEW YORK ON UNGA ISSUES AND PARTICULARLY PUERTO RICO.

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6. MALVINAS ISLANDS. IN AN ASIDE, PETRELLA ASKED BARRY TO CONSIDER THE POSSIBILITY OF A US STATEMENT OF ITS NEUTRAL POSITION ON MALVINAS ISLANDS DISPUTE IN SOME FORUM. HE SAID HE RECOGNIZED THAT PRESIDENT CARTER HAD NOT PASSED OVER THIS ISSUE INTENTIONALLY IN SPEAKING TO THE OAS BUT IT WOULD BE STILL USEFUL IF US WENT ON PUBLIC RECORD BECAUSE OF ATTACKS

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L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
AID-05 EB-08 TRSE-00 STR-07 OMB-01 CEA-01 COME-00
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 BUENOS AIRES 5750

MOUNTED BY SOME CIRCLES IN ARGENTINA. BARRY PROMISED TO CARRY THIS MESSAGE BACK TO WASHINGTON.

7. UNESCO DECLARATION ON MASS MEDIA. BARRY DESCRIBED US CONCERNS REGARDING DECLARATION AND ARGENTINE OFFICIALS INDICATED UNDERSTANDING.

8. HUMAN RIGHTS. BARRY DESCRIBED FOR THE INFORMATION OF GOA WHAT HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES US INTENDED TO PRESS AT THE 33RD UNGA (E.G. UNHCR, COORDINATING ROLE FOR UNGA, IMPROVED EFFECTIVENESS OF HRC). ARGENTINES DID NOT REACT TO THIS PRESENTATION.

9. ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUES. IN RESPONSE TO US DESCRIPTION OF CONCERNS OVER GROWING UN BUDGET, GOA OFFICIALS INDICATED SYMPATHY WITH US POSITION. HOWEVER, THEY ADMITTED THEY COULD BE OF LITTLE HELP ON SPECIFIC ISSUES SUCH AS HIGH LEVEL SALARIES AND FIRST CLASS TRAVEL GIVEN THE INFLUENCE OF HIGH RANKING ARGENTINES AT UN.

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10. UN REFORM. BARRY OUTLINED SOME US PROPOSALS ON UN REFORM AND ASKED THE GOA TO STUDY PRESIDENT'S REPORT AND LET US KNOW THEIR REACTION.

11. ECONOMIC ISSUES. DURING DISCUSSIONS WITH OFFICIAL FROM MINISTRY OF ECONOMY AND MFA OFFICIALS RESPONSIBLE FOR ECONOMIC MATTERS FOLLOWING POINTS EMERGED:

A. ARGENTINES ARE STILL SMARTING FROM THEIR EXPERIENCE AT CIEC BECAUSE OF LLDC CHARGES THAT THEIR POSITION WAS NOT ADEQUATELY REPRESENTED. WHILE THEY SEE THE LOGIC OF THE NEW US PROPOSALS ON OVERVIEW COMMITTEE THEY HAVE NO CONFIDENCE THAT THEY WILL BE ACCEPTABLE TO THE G-77 AND IN FACT THEY DOUBT THAT ANY DISCUSSION IN A PLENARY BODY CAN BE USEFUL. BARRY SUGGESTED A SERIES OF INFORMAL MEETINGS IN SMALL GROUPS WITH RANDOM MEMBERSHIP IF OVERVIEW EXPERIMENT DIDN'T WORK. PEREZ LLANA FROM ECONOMICS MINISTRY SEEMED TO THINK THIS IDEA HAD SOME MERIT, BUT AMBASSADOR MUSSACHI OF MFA ARGUED THAT G-77 WOULDN'T AGREE TO THIS. HIS SUGGESTION WAS THAT AN OPEN-ENDED GROUP BE CONVENED TO DISCUSS A SINGLE SUBJECT WHERE PROGRESS WAS LIKELY. HE DID NOT THINK AGRICULTURE OR ENERGY WOULD BE AN ACCEPTABLE THEME BUT SUGGESTED TRADE/PROTECTIONISM OR FINANCE.

B. ARGENTINES FREELY ADMITTED THAT G-77 DYNAMICS LEAD ARGENTINES TO TAKE POSITIONS WHICH CUT ACROSS THEIR OWN INTERESTS IN SUPPORT OF NIEO AIMS. THERE IS CLEARLY LITTLE ENTHUSIASM HERE FOR COMMON FUND OR DEBT RELIEF, THOUGH GOA WILL CONTINUE TO SUPPORT G-77 LEADERSHIP ON THESE ISSUES IN GENEVA. ABOVE ALL ARGENTINES BELIEVE SOME BREAKTHROUGH IN CONFIDENTIAL

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LOGJAM OF NORTH-SOUTH ISSUES IS NEEDED.

C. MAJOR ISSUES HERE ARE TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER, TCDC AND UNCSTD. ON THE ONE HAND ARGENTINE OFFICIALS ADMITTED THAT CLIMATE FOR TRANSFER OF PROPRIETARY TECHNOLOGY COULD BE RUINED BY RADICAL CODES WHICH MADE PRIVATE FIRMS DRAW BACK FROM DEALINGS WITH LDC'S. AT THE SAME TIME THEY WERE SUSPICIOUS THAT SOME INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES (NOT RPT NOT US) WERE TRYING TO SABOTAGE TCDC BECAUSE THEY FEARED ITS OUTCOME. BARRY ASSURED THEM THAT US PLANNED TO TAKE POSITIVE STANCE, NOTING US STATEMENT TO UNDP GOVERNING COUNCIL, BUT THAT SUCH CONFERENCE COULD ONLY SUCCEED IF MODERATES SUCH AS ARGENTINA FENDED OFF RADICAL DEMANDS.

12. ACTION REQUESTED: USUN SHOULD FOLLOW UP AS NECESSARY WITH ARGENTINE DELEGATION, PARTICULARLY RE PUERTO RICO AND POSSIBILITY OF ARGENTINE PARTICIPATION IN UNTAG.

13. FOR PORT OF SPAIN: PLEASE PASS ON TO DAS BARRY. CASTRO

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Message Attributes

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